Government of India's stand on Kyoto Protocol

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA (Jharkhand): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there were references to global warming during the Question Hour in this House today. Sir, the House is aware that the Kyoto Protocol was signed in 1997 and 140 countries had signed the Kyoto Protocol. After the signing and ratification by Russia, this Treaty came into effect in February this year. Now, news reports, Sir, have appeared which will suggest that led by the US, Australia, South Korea, China and India are negotiating or have negotiated some kind of a regional pact on global warming, and these reports would suggest, perhaps, this agreement is going to be announced by the Deputy Secretary of State of the US Administration today. There have been various reports that it has been done very quietly and very secretly and that is what raises concerns in my mind.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair]

Sir, it was mentioned in this House that India is not merely a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, we have led the movement against global warming and fought for the signing of the Kyoto Protocol. Now, according to reports, Sir, the Australian Labour Party which is in Opposition in Australia—this is how this matter came to our notice because the Australian Minister for Environment has gone to the Press with this—has said that it is nothing, it is a swig. Now, that raises further concerns in our mind as to what exactly is happening. Is this regional pact merely about technology or will it effect the commitments under the Kyoto Protocol. I am not casting any aspersions; I am not expressing any view because I don't have the details, apart from some perfunctory reports which have appeared. But, in view of the very serious nature of the issue involved, Sir, I will suggest to the Government, through you, that an immediate statement on this should be made by the concerned Minister of the Government and the House and the nation should be taken into confidence as to where does the Government of India stand with regard to the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Sir, we have already given a notice for a discussion on this. That may be considered in the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Is it about this?

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Yes, we have given a notice on the same subject. We have given a notice for a discussion on the Kyoto Protocol.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will look into that. *(Interruptions)* Now, Shri Suresh Pachouri to make a *suo motu* statement on the Mumbai High fire *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I have given a notice on the Mumbai High fire.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; the Minister is making a *suo motu* Statement on this. *(Interruptions)*.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): A statement is being made on that subject.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, a statement is being made on that.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Fire accident in Mumbai High North Platform of O.N.G.C.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Sir, with your kind permission, on behalf of the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, I am making this *suo motu* statement.

SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, copies of the statement have not been circulated to the Members. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The statement has come just now.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी: सर, बात यह है कि अभी यह नोटिस मिला है और चूंकि अभी नोटिस मिला है, इसलिए यह स्टेटमेंट पढ़ रहे हैं। इसकी कापी माननीय सदस्यों को डिस्ट्रिब्यूट कर दी जाएगी।